

see were three crosses with three poor Jews dying upon them. Second, there were the enemies of Jesus watching, the jealous watchers, full of hatred, who hurled scoffs at the suffering Savior as he hung upon the cross. But there were loving watchers, too, for the women were there and John, Christ's friends, who looked on with broken hearts as their Lord was dying in shame. They had loved him. He had done so much for them. They could not understand why this pure, holy man of God must suffer and die. Besides these, there were all about that cross unseen watchers, angels who looked in amazement upon that wonderful scene.

3. *Three Crosses.*—There stood three crosses each with its victim. Two thieves and Christ in the center. Thus was fulfilled the prophecy that he was to be numbered with transgressors. One of these thieves called on the name of Jesus and tho the sins of the world were resting upon him, he will, even in that hour of agony, turn and answer the penitent sinner. He is never too busy to hearken to the cry of a poor sinner. Then we must not forget that sometimes people are very close to the cross and yet are lost. Only one of the thieves was saved, tho both were equally near the cross.

To Make You Think

1. By what different bodies and persons was Christ condemned? 2. Where was Jesus taken after his arrest? 3. Why do you think Pilate yielded to the demands of the Jews when he knew that Jesus was innocent? 4. Do people now make such foolish choices as did the Jews of old? 5. Where was the place of crucifixion? 6. What inscription was placed above Jesus on the cross? 7. Why in those languages? 8. Who wanted it changed? 9. How were the garments of Jesus disposed of? 10. What prophecy was fulfilled? 11. Why was Jesus crucified between two thieves? 12. What prophecy was fulfilled? 13. What mocking demand was made of Jesus? 14. Could Jesus have come down from the cross? 15. Why did he not? 16. Would people have believed on him if he had come down? 17. What makes you think that they would not? 18. Had they seen miracles before? 19. How many times did Jesus speak on the cross? 20. What was the first saying? 21. The last? 22. What three things took place at his death? 23. Was the darkness a natural phenomenon or was it a miracle? 24. What was the real occasion of Christ's death? 25. Did Jesus die because it was prophesied or was it prophesied because he would die?

Lesson Points

1. The cross shows us how great is the depth of human guilt which could commit such a crime and gloat over such suffering. Man's sin is placed in dark colors by the cross of Christ.

2. The cross shows us the value of our humanity, since such a price was necessary to be paid, and was freely given for our redemption. If Christ was willing to give his

life to save men, what should not we be willing to do to bring them to him?

3. The cross shows us the riches of God's love and grace. God so loved the world that he gave his Son to die for the world. We see God's love in nature, but we see it far more shed abroad in Christ.

4. The cross shows to us the brotherhood of Christ to man. He died as our fellow man, for our God he could not die. It was our brother who hung bleeding and suffering on Calvary.

5. The cross becomes in some way the meeting-place between earth and heaven. Here God comes into communion with us and accepts Christ as our mediator and substitute. We are saved because Christ died for us.

Helpful Illustrations

The finished life. The last word of Jesus is, "It is finished." Surely, if some sympathetic friend of Jesus had been telling of his death, he would have said, "What a fearful pity it was that he died so soon! What a loss it was to us all that he felt his life unfinished! Think what might have happened if he could only have lived sixty years!" And yet, as Jesus said, it was a finished life—for completeness is not a thing of quantity. What seems to be a fragment may be in reality the most perfect thing on earth. You stand in some museum before a Greek statue—mutilated, a fragment of what it was meant to be. And yet, as you look at it, you say, "Here is the perfect art. It is absolutely right." Or what shall we say of those young men of our civil war, dying at twenty-five at the head of their troops, pouring out all the promise of their life in one splendid instant! Was not their life a finished one? What more could they ever have done with it? If your life is carved out of pure marble with an artist's hand, whether the whole of it remains to be a thing of beauty, or whether it is broken off like a fragment of its full design, it is a finished life. You give it back to God, saying, "I have accomplished what thou hast given me to do."—*Harvard Chapel Talks.*

Calvary, the world's salvation. The famous picture, "Christ on Calvary," was on exhibition in a public room. A visitor was interested in the picture, but he was not impressed as he expected to be. As he was leaving the hall the attendant said, "You have not seen it. Please return." The illuminations were turned on, and the central figure was thrown up in a startling vision. The visitor felt that he was on Calvary. He was overwhelmed. "It is the old theme," one man says; "only Christ crucified!" May the Holy Spirit illuminate the cross of Christ and deliver the great tragedy as a personal gospel.—*Monday Club.*

The peace that is "sweet peace" is a peace of the soul. Exterior things, the fires of persecution or the sunshine of prosperity, can not affect it. Our heritage of peace is within and none but ourselves can mar it.

Our Bible School

STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF CHRIST

Please remember that the questions following each day's reading are not intended to be exhaustive; they are meant to draw out the reader and direct him in the further investigation of the subject.

Monday: Matthew 12: 15-21; Mark. 3: 13-19. Why did not Jesus want it known that he was doing such great works? What prophecy was thus fulfilled? What in this scripture shows the exceeding tenderness of Jesus? What that his religion was for all mankind? What was the purpose in calling the twelve and ordaining them? What alarmed the friends of Jesus?

Tuesday: Matthew 5: 1-20. To whom were the beatitudes spoken, to the disciples or to the multitude? Which of the beatitudes is the most beautiful? Which is the most difficult? Which the easiest? Will doing these things make one a Christian? Could not the moral man do them? In what senses are Christians the salt of the earth? How did Jesus fulfill the law?

Wednesday: Matthew 5: 21-37.

Thursday: Matthew 5: 38-48.

Friday: Matthew 6: 1-24. Is it wrong to let men see our good works, such as alms etc? Is it wrong to pray on the street corners? What is the thing here forbidden as to prayer and alms doing? How many petitions in the Lord's Prayer? Which for God and which for man? How may one find out where his affections are?

Saturday: Matthew 6: 25-34. Does one take thought for the morrow when he sows his grain? Attends school? What is the difference in preparing for the future and in taking thought for the future? What lessons may we learn from the birds? Do they teach us laziness? What lessons may we learn from the flowers?

Sunday: Matthew 7: 1-29. Are we forbidden to pass judgment on others' acts? Does the Christian get everything he asks for of God? Are all true prayers answered? Why is the gate to eternal life narrow? Who made it so? What is the difference between the two builders in this story? In what were they alike?

If we would have peace, we must leave our selfish wishing and planning, take our heart's desire, and lay it down at our Master's feet, saying, "Thy will, not mine." Every disciple of Jesus has a cross to bear, a conflict to wage, a victory to strive after. What is mine? The subduing of my will to God's will.

The heart of our creed is what we believe about God; and we believe that he has revealed in Jesus Christ to take away the sin of the world, that in all the past his plans of blessing have been maturing, that in the present these same plans are moving toward their consummation, and that some time he will see of the travail of his soul and be satisfied.—*A. H. Bradford, D. D.*